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Agenda items 8 and 21 (j)

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Note by the Secretary-General*

1. On 11 October 1965, during its twentieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2011 (XX), by which it invited the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to attend sessions of the General Assembly as an observer. The Assembly further invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to explore, in consultation with the appropriate bodies of OAU, the means of promoting cooperation between the two organizations and to report to the General Assembly as appropriate.

2. On 15 November 1965, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU signed a further agreement on cooperation between OAU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, which came into force upon signature in accordance with article VII (1) of the agreement.

3. On 9 October 1990, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU signed a further agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and OAU. Article III, paragraph 1, of that agreement provides that, "subject to such decisions as may be taken by its competent bodies concerning the attendance of its meetings by observers, the United Nations shall, subject to the rules of procedure of the bodies concerned, invite the OAU to send representatives to United Nations meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of interest to the OAU are discussed". Pursuant to paragraph 2 of that

* In order for the General Assembly to consider the present note, it will be necessary for the Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 21 (j).

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article, the United Nations enjoys similar rights at meetings convened by OAU. In accordance with article X, paragraph 1, of the agreement, it entered into force on the date of its signature.

4. By its resolution 46/20 of 26 November 1991, the General Assembly recalled the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and OAU, as updated by the agreement signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations, and took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and OAU, which contained information about the conclusion and implementation of the aforementioned agreements.

5. By a letter, dated 7 August 2002, Amara Essy, the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, informed the Secretary-General of the following:

> "I have the honour to inform you that, as of 8 July 2002, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has ceased to exist and that, in its place, the African Union has come into force, since 9 July 2002, by decision of the Assembly of the Union, which met in its first ordinary session in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002.
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> "The African Union indeed inherits the assets and liabilities of the OAU. By decision ASS/AU/Dec.1 (1), the Assembly of the African Union has provided for an interim period with effect from 9 July 2002 for a duration of one (1) year during which four main organs will be operational, namely:
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> - The Assembly of the African Union
> - The Executive Council
> - The Committee of Permanent Representatives
> - The Commission
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> "Indeed, the former Assembly of Heads of State and Government is replaced by the Assembly of the African Union; the Council of Ministers becomes the Executive Council of the Union; the Committee of African Ambassadors accredited to Ethiopia forms the Committee of Permanent Representatives; the OAU General Secretariat becomes the Commission of the African Union.
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> "The Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity shall now be referred to as the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the Union. The Assistants Secretaries General shall be referred to as Interim Commissioners.
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> "The Commission shall continue to use the OAU logo, flag, anthems and other symbols until such time as the process of their gradual review for adaptation or replacement is finalized in conformity with Decision AHG/Dec.160 (XXXVII) the copy of which is hereby attached.
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> "I would like to request you to inform the General Assembly of these changes as well as of the necessity to review, in the light of the new development, the cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and Organization of African Unity."

6. The changes referred to in the letter of Amara Essy imply that the African Union would assume the rights and responsibilities of the Organization of African

Unity as an observer invited in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2011 (XX) and the respective provisions of the cooperation agreement to participate in meetings and conferences of the United Nations.

7. The present note is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.